

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 26

February 24, 1999, 6:33 p.m.  
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## MILITARY PAY & RETIREMENT/Final Passage

**SUBJECT:** Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999 . . . S. 4. Final passage, as amended.

### ACTION: BILL PASSED, 91-8

**SYNOPSIS:** As amended and passed, S. 4, the Soldiers', Sailors', Airmen's, and Marines' Bill of Rights Act of 1999: will authorize a 4.8-percent military pay raise and will provide other pay, retirement, education, savings, and health benefits. Approximately \$18 billion over 5 years and \$46 billion over 10 years will be authorized (the 10-year total is approximately \$5 billion higher than the reported amount, mainly due to the adoption of amendments that will increase bonuses and special pay). Approximately \$5 billion over 5 years and \$16 billion over 10 years will be provided in direct spending (the 10-year total is approximately \$3 billion higher than the reported amount; close to \$2 billion of the increase is due to the adoption of an amendment that will give certain mandated health benefits to "atomic veterans" (service members who were exposed to radiation)).

- Pay. A 4.8-percent pay raise will be authorized effective January 1, 2000. Future military pay raises will be authorized equal to the Employment Cost Index plus one-half percent. The pay tables will be restructured to shift the emphasis toward promotion while making longevity increases more consistent than in the current pay tables. A special subsistence allowance of \$180 per month will be given as an entitlement to enlisted personnel who can demonstrate an eligibility for food stamps. The allowance will be effective within 180 days of enactment, and will end by September 30, 2004. Reserve forces on special duty assignments will receive special duty pay. It is the sense of the Congress that parity should be maintained between Federal civilian and military pay increases (see vote No. 22).

- Retirement. Service members who entered the military on or after August 1, 1986, will be given the option of retiring under the pre-1986 plan or of accepting a one-time, \$30,000 lump-sum bonus and remaining under the Redux retirement plan (currently all service members who joined on or after August 1, 1986 are in the Redux retirement plan). Initially the costs of this bill's military retirement changes will primarily be paid through discretionary appropriations. Eventually (in about 15 years), they will result in an 11-percent increase in annual direct spending costs for military retirement. The current-law reduction in military retirement pay for Federal civilian employees will be repealed (see vote No. 20).

(See other side)

YEAS (91)				NAYS (8)		NOT VOTING (1)	
Republican (52 or 95%)		Democrats (39 or 89%)		Republicans (3 or 5%)	Democrats (5 or 11%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (1)
Abraham	Helms	Akaka	Kerrey	Gregg	Dodd		Moynihan- <sup>2AY</sup>
Allard	Hutchinson	Baucus	Kerry	Nickles	Durbin		
Ashcroft	Hutchison	Bayh	Kohl	Voinovich	Feingold		
Bennett	Inhofe	Biden	Landrieu		Graham		
Bond	Jeffords	Bingaman	Lautenberg		Lieberman		
Brownback	Kyl	Boxer	Leahy				
Bunning	Lott	Breaux	Levin				
Burns	Lugar	Bryan	Lincoln				
Campbell	Mack	Byrd	Mikulski				
Chafee	McCain	Cleland	Murray				
Cochran	McConnell	Conrad	Reed				
Collins	Murkowski	Daschle	Reid				
Coverdell	Roberts	Dorgan	Robb				
Craig	Roth	Edwards	Rockefeller				
Crapo	Santorum	Feinstein	Sarbanes				
DeWine	Sessions	Harkin	Schumer				
Domenici	Shelby	Hollings	Torricelli				
Enzi	Smith, Bob	Inouye	Wellstone				
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Johnson	Wyden				
Frist	Snowe	Kennedy					
Gorton	Specter						
Gramm	Stevens						
Grams	Thomas						
Grassley	Thompson						
Hagel	Thurmond						
Hatch	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

- **Savings.** Members of the uniformed services, the National Guard, and the Reserves (see vote No. 23) will be permitted to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) now available for Federal civil service employees. They will be allowed to put up to 5 percent of their basic pay, before tax, into one or more of the three TSP funds. The Government will not match deposits, except that the Service Secretaries will be authorized to offer up to 5 percent in matching contributions to a TSP account for 6 years in return for 6 years of service. In addition to being allowed to deposit up to 5 percent of their basic pay, service members will be allowed to deposit their lump-sum bonuses for remaining in Redux and any special pays they receive for enlistment or reenlistment.

- **Education.** The monthly Montgomery G.I. Bill (MGIB) benefit will be increased from \$528 to \$600 for members who serve at least 3 years, and from \$429 to \$488 for members with 2-year enlistments. The \$1,200 contribution requirement for participating in the MGIB will be eliminated. Payment of accelerated "lump-sum" benefits for an entire term, semester, or quarter, and for courses not leading to a college degree, will be permitted. The Services will be given discretionary authority to allow members to transfer their MGIB benefits to their spouses or to their children, and they will be allowed to pay 100 percent of the tuition costs for personnel

is that this bill will be fixed in conference. As it is currently drafted, we must vote against it.